

The logo for SEMCOG, Southeast Michigan Council of Governments. It features the acronym "SEMCOG" in a large, bold, dark blue sans-serif font. The letters are closely spaced, with the "S" and "E" being particularly prominent. The background of the slide includes a dark blue horizontal bar at the top, a thin orange horizontal bar below it, and a large orange trapezoidal shape at the bottom that tapers to the left, containing the text "EDUCATION PEER GROUP" in white.

SOUTHEAST MICHIGAN COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS

*EDUCATION PEER GROUP*

# Welcome!



# SEMCOG LEADERSHIP



**DIANA MCKNIGHT-MORTON**

Vice Chairperson

*Trustee, Washtenaw Community College*

# SEMCOG MEMBERS

★ 186 ★  
TOTAL

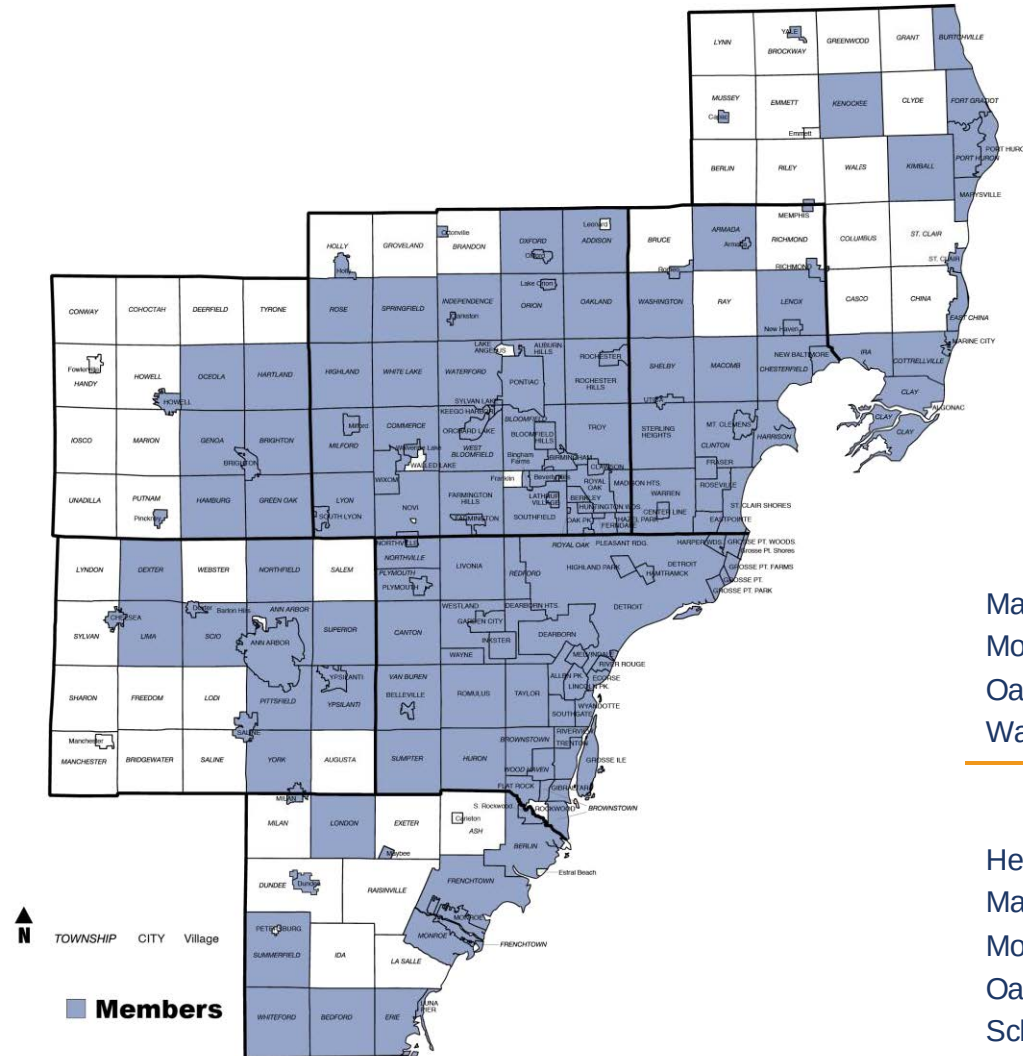
## 87 CITIES

## 16 VILLAGES

## 65 TOWNSHIPS

## 7 COUNTIES

Livingston, Macomb, Monroe,  
Oakland, St. Clair, Washtenaw,  
and Wayne



Macomb Intermediate School District  
Monroe County Intermediate School District  
Oakland Schools  
Wayne County Regional Educational Service Agency

Henry Ford College  
Macomb Community College  
Monroe Community College  
Oakland Community College  
Schoolcraft College  
Washtenaw Community College  
Wayne County Community College District

# About SEMCOG

## Regional Planning Agency

- Transportation (MPO)
- Infrastructure
- Environment
- Economic Development
- Education & Workforce
- Data Analysis

**Designated transportation, air, water,  
economic development agency**

## Membership Organization

- Counties
- Cities, villages and townships
- Community Colleges, ISDs



# SEMCOG VISION

*All people of Southeast Michigan benefit from a connected, thriving region of small towns, dynamic urban centers, active waterfronts, diverse neighborhoods, premiere educational institutions, and abundant agricultural, recreational, and natural areas.*



# Member Events

- **General Assembly**
- **SEMCOG University**
- **Networking opportunities**
- **Grant training**
- **Member Meetups**
- **Committees/Task Forces**



# SEMCOG PEER GROUPS INITIATIVE

- Types of Peer Groups:
  - Urban Communities
  - Suburban Communities
  - Small Communities
  - Rural Communities
  - Education
- Goals of Peer Group Committees:
  - Providing space for collaboration & knowledge sharing
  - Connecting peers to information & resources
  - Ensuring needs & challenges are heard & recognized in regional planning
  - Working with federal & state partners to ensure priorities & resources reflect the unique needs of all members

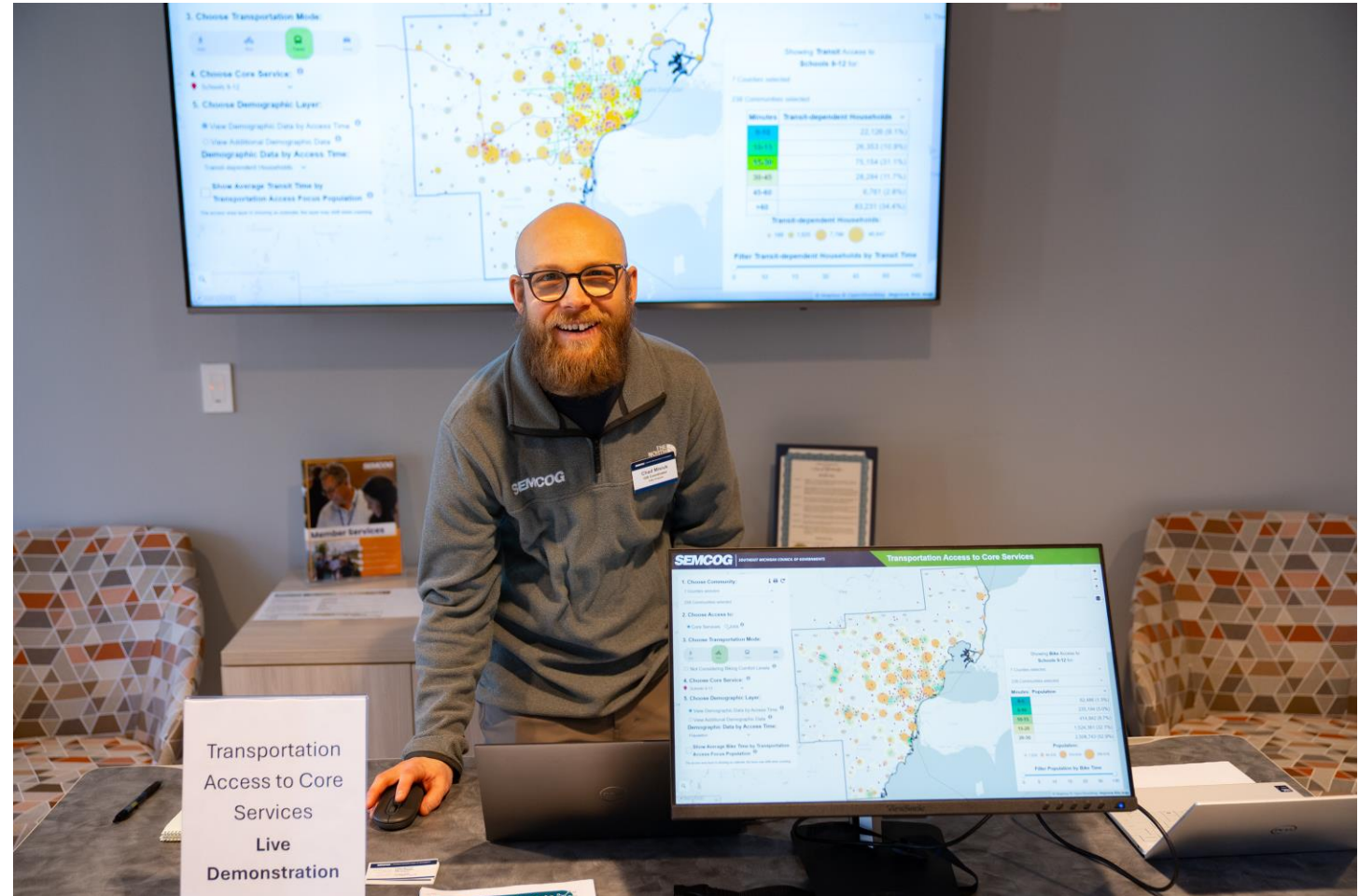
# Goal 1

- **Providing a space for collaboration & sharing of opportunities, best practices, challenges, and successes**



# Goal 2

- Connecting peers to information and resources specific to their needs and challenges



## Goal 3

- Ensuring needs and challenges of all member types are heard and recognized in regional planning and initiatives



## Goal 4

- Working with federal and state partners to understand priorities and resources that align with and support needs of our diverse communities



# *Introductions*

- **Name and Institution**
- **One thing we should all know about your institution (success/upcoming event, etc.)**
- **What keeps you up at night for your institution?**





Data & Maps

Local Assistance

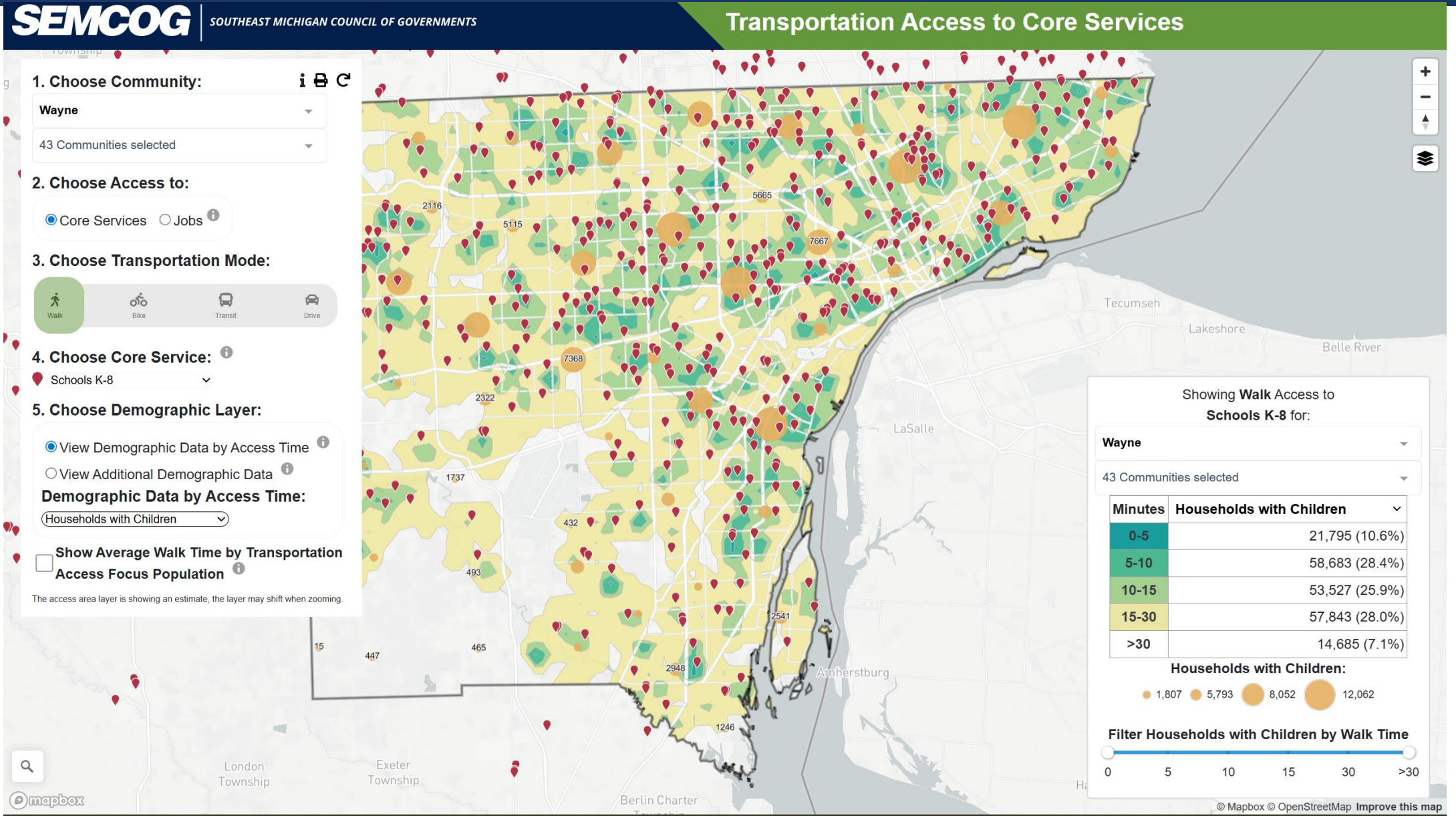
Policy & Advocacy

Education &  
Engagement

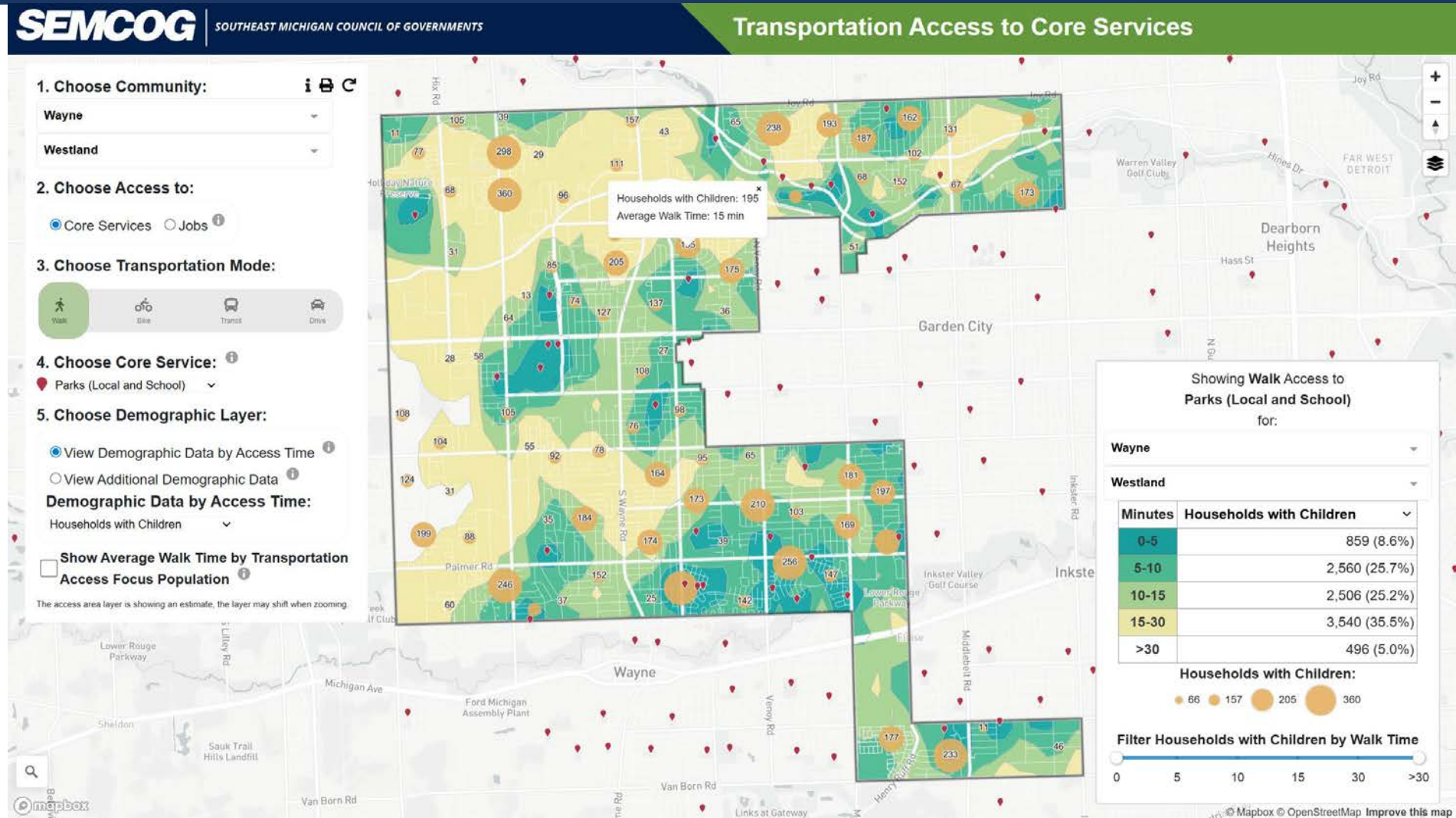
# DATA, MAPPING & TOOLS

- Big Three – data for community planning
- Transportation Access to Core Services
- Crash Locations
- Flood Risk Tool
- What else?

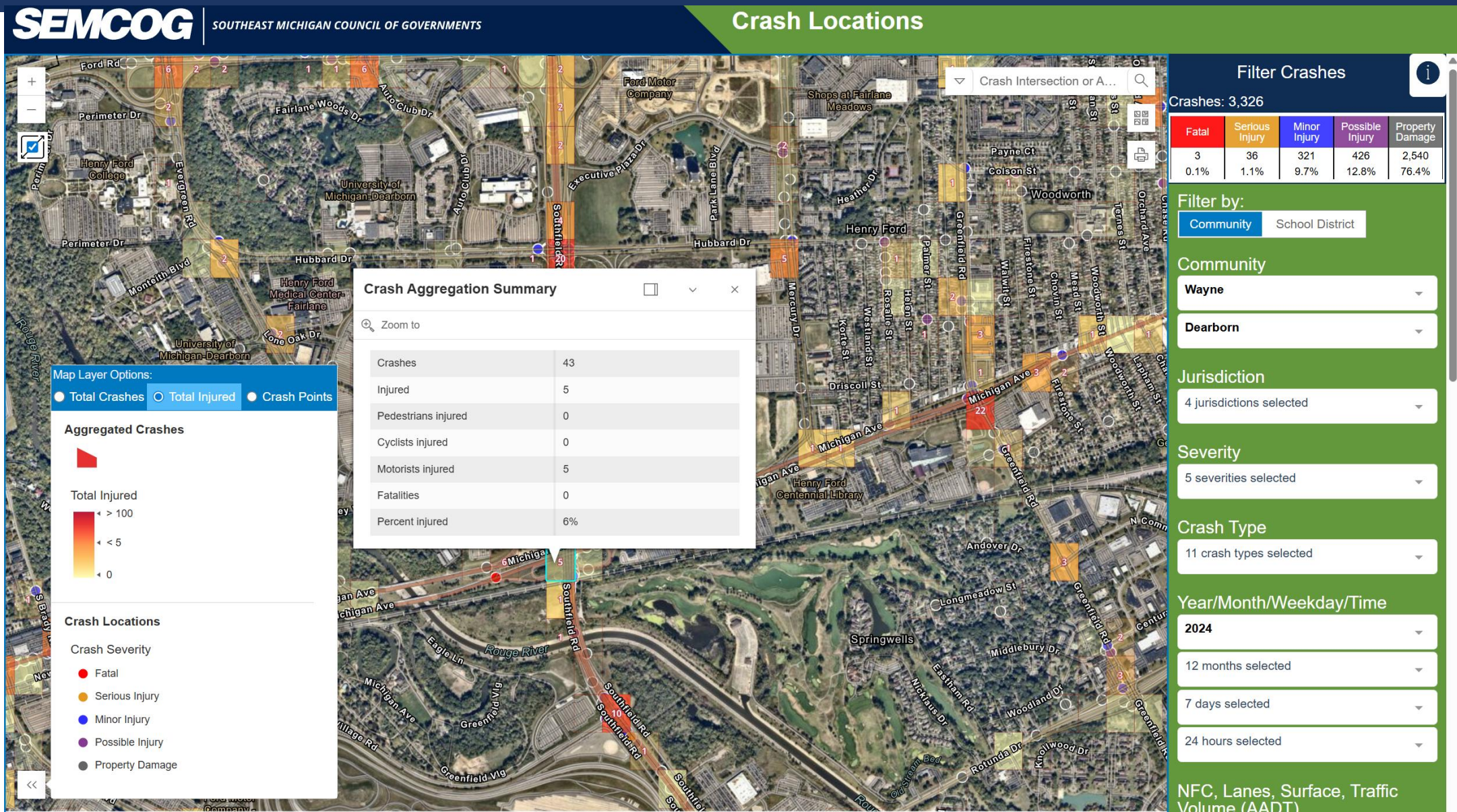
# Access to Core Services Tool



# Access to Core Services Tool



# Crash Location Mapping Tool



# NEW! Main Street Toolkit



## MAIN STREET CHECKLIST

This tool is designed to help evaluate the strengths and needs of a main street district. It can be applied to traditional main streets or used in planning efforts to create a main street environment. Use this checklist for a quick overview of main street characteristics and needs. For detailed guidance, resources, implementation ideas, visuals, and local examples, check out the Main Street Handbook.



View the full handbook

### PEDESTRIAN EXPERIENCE AND SAFETY

#### SPEED AND CROSSINGS

- ☐ Posted speed limits are between 25 and 30 MPH.
- ☐ Traffic calming measures have been implemented to keep prevailing speeds below 30 mph.
- ☐ Crosswalks are spaced at least every 400 feet – or more frequently if needed – to support safe and convenient walking between destinations.
- ☐ If needed, medians and pedestrian refuge islands are present to facilitate safe crossing.

#### SIDEWALKS AND BUFFERS

- ☐ There are wide sidewalks in the core area. In certain sections, they are at least 10-25 feet wide.
- ☐ There is a buffer such as a row of trees or parked cars, between pedestrians on the sidewalk and automotive traffic.

### LAND USE AND ZONING

#### PUBLIC GATHERING SPACE

- ☐ There is at least one public space or plaza directly adjacent to the district and visible from the sidewalk. This space is highly visible to both pedestrians and motorists and centrally located.

#### SPACING AND MIX OF BUSINESSES

- ☐ A variety of businesses are located nearby, creating a vibrant mix of uses. Storefronts are frequent and closely spaced along the street.

#### HOUSING

- ☐ Housing is incorporated within the district and is located on the second floor and above, or on nearby supporting streets within walking distance of main street.

#### PARKING LOCATION

- ☐ Parking is available through on-street parking spaces or in lots located behind main street.



## Pedestrian Experience and Safety



Photo Credit: Valley Transportation Authority

The planter/furniture zone provides spaces for utilities, such as light posts, sidewalk furniture, trees and green infrastructure, and other sidewalk amenities.

### CHECKLIST

- ☒ THERE IS A BUFFER BETWEEN PEDESTRIANS ON THE SIDEWALK AND AUTOMOBILE TRAFFIC, SUCH AS A ROW OF TREES OR PARKED CARS.

Key to pedestrian experience along any roadway is the presence of an adequate buffer, which should separate pedestrians from traffic. Consider the experience of a parent walking with a child along a main street with minimal separation from high-speed traffic.

This type of environment is not conducive to walking. In general, pedestrians will only walk in this environment when it is absolutely necessary to get from one place to another, not when there is a choice. Because main street districts are designed to be cultural and economic hubs of the community, they must be attractive places to gather.

To create a physical separation between pedestrians and moving traffic, traditional main street contexts typically include on-street parking, which not only offers convenient access to local shops but also serves as a protective buffer. Additionally, frequent street trees, planters, and other physical elements can enhance both safety and comfort.



The parked cars act as a safety buffer for pedestrians.

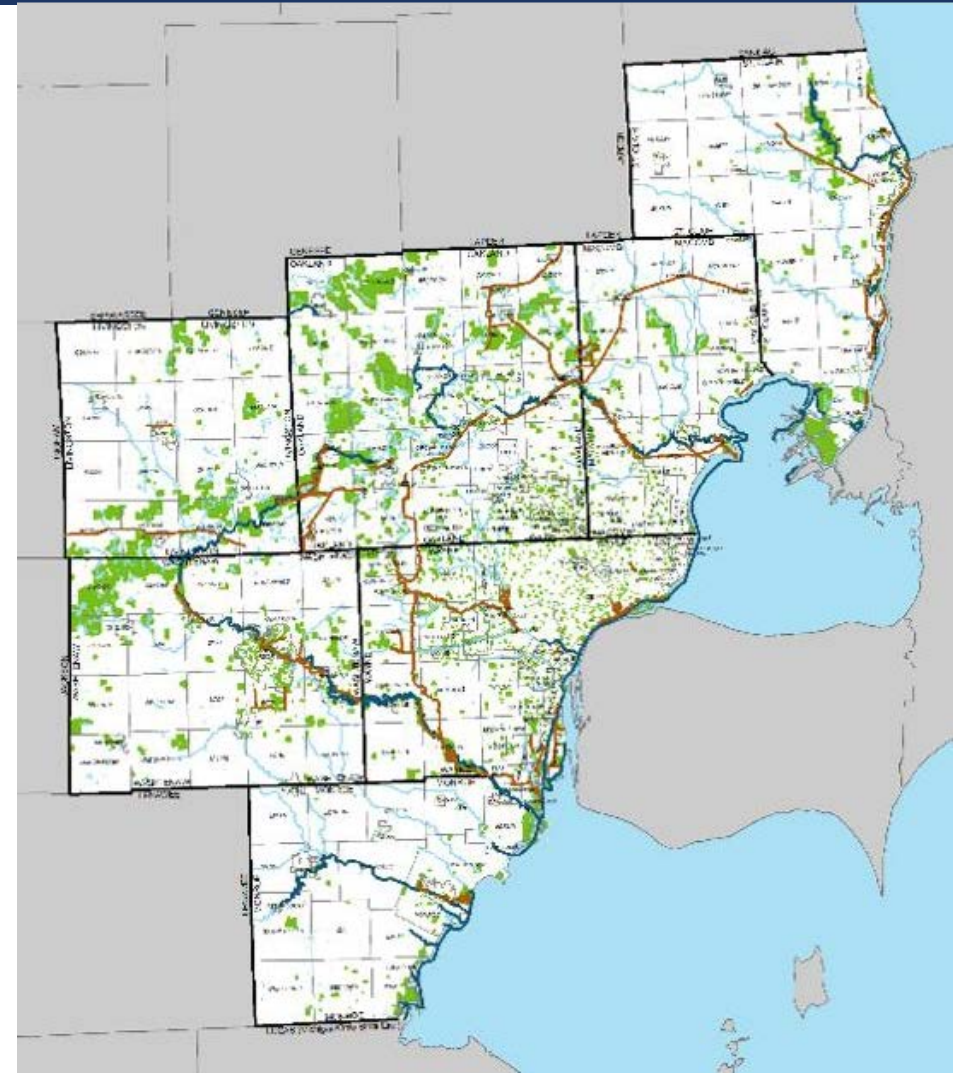


The planter box is used to separate the automobile traffic from the main street pedestrian zone.



# PARKS AND RECREATION

- Data and Maps
  - Systems-level tools for parks and trails, amenities, and access
- Planning and Policies
  - Results from regional surveys and shared priorities
- Funding and Implementation
  - Assistance with grants, projects, partnerships, and promotion



# Funding Resources: TAP

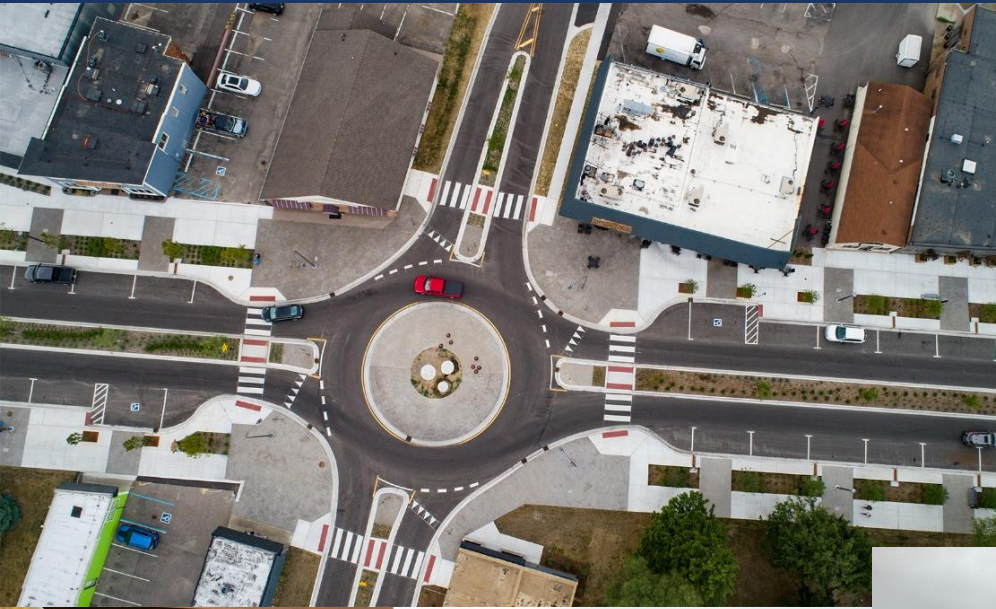
## Safe Streets Now

- \$7 million- FY28-29

## Regular TAP Call for FY30



# SEMCOG Awarded Projects (TAP)



# GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE GRANT PROGRAM



- \$4.2 Million from USEPA for Green Infrastructure Implementation
- Pass-Through Funding for Subawards:
  - 12-15 Projects
  - \$50,000-300,000
- Call for Projects May 2026 – August 2026
- Implementation from **Spring 2027 – June 2030**
- Demonstrate annual stormwater runoff reduction

# *EDUCATION & ENGAGEMENT*

- Experience SE Michigan videos
- Safe Streets
- One Water
- Materials Management

# *Experience Southeast Michigan*



**Experience Downriver**



**Charming Shops**



**Parks**



**COMMUNITY EVENTS**

# MATERIALS MANAGEMENT PLANNING

## Regional Collaboration

- SEMCOG facilitates monthly Materials Management Work Group for county staff writing the plans
- SEMCOG staff sits on each of the 7 counties' MMPCs

## Educational Campaign

- Educational materials for elected officials and local municipalities
  - ✓ Educational videos (with EGLE, county reps, haulers, other experts)
  - ✓ Physical & digital materials for outreach and social media
  - ✓ SEMCOG University webinars & workshops

**Once plan is developed...**

**67%** of municipalities in the county must approve the plan within 120 days

# *Public Education Campaigns: Safe Streets and One Water*

*Place orders today!*



Campaign begins in May



Campaign begins in June

# SEMCOG LEGISLATIVE POLICY PLATFORM



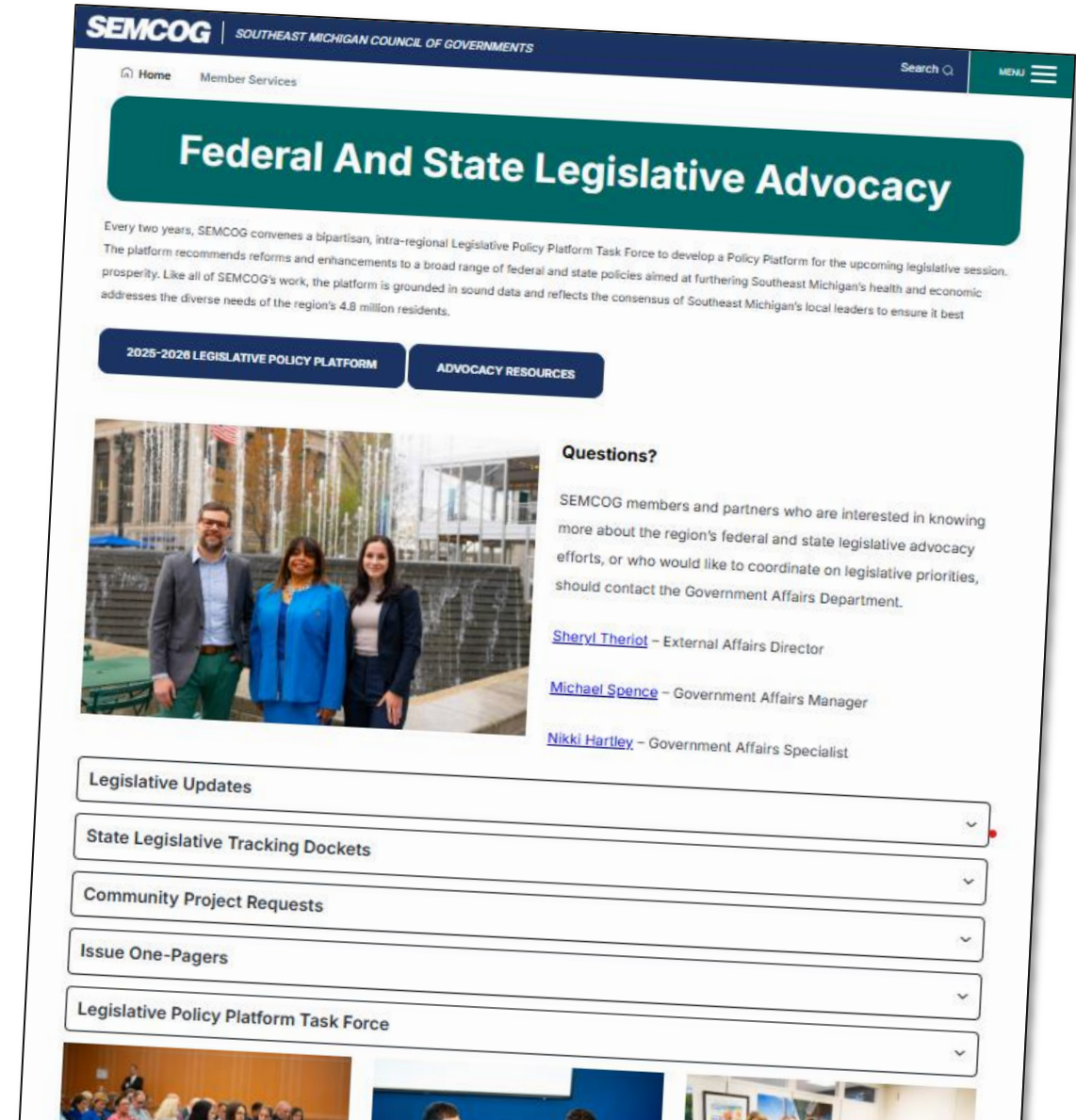
Prior to each new session of Congress and Michigan's Legislature, SEMCOG forms a Legislative Policy Platform Task Force to guide development of a new policy platform.

# SEMCOG's 2026 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

- **Advance sustainable stormwater infrastructure funding**, including the implementation of stormwater utilities to ensure long-term, locally driven solutions
- **Protect and preserve local government and education funding**, with a focus on safeguarding property tax revenue as a cornerstone of community services
- **Secure a surface transportation reauthorization** that protects and strengthens SEMCOG's most impactful programs
- **Defend local control** by opposing state or federal preemption that undermines the authority of local governments to address community-specific needs

# CHECK OUT SEMCOG'S ADVOCACY WEBPAGE!

- Federal and State Legislative Reports from SEMCOG lobbyists
- Legislative Update and Action Alert e-newsletters
- Community Project Funding info and support
- State Legislative Tracking dockets
- Issue Area One-Pagers
- Advocacy Resources
  - SEMCOG data/reports supporting policy positions
  - Legislative district maps
  - Michigan legislator contact info

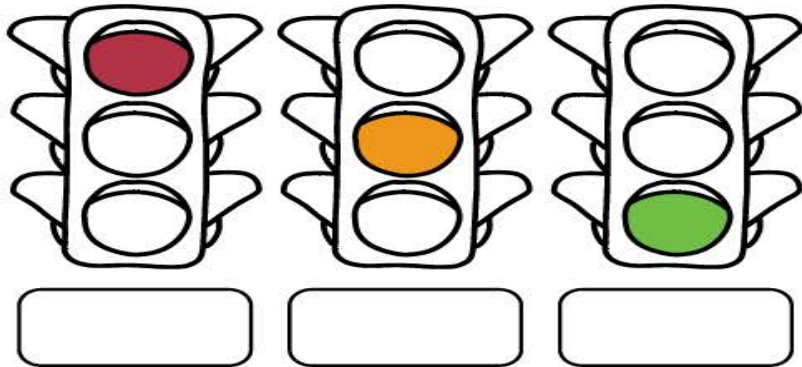


## *Education Peer Group Input Session*

- Highlight top 3 priorities/challenges
- Identify one SEMCOG program you feel is impactful
- Water infrastructure workforce
- Safety activity sheet update

## Safety Activity Sheet

Write in what each color means, and then color in the remaining lights.



|   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| D | L | K | L | E | S | W | W | R |
| N | R | S | A | F | E | R | A | I |
| S | T | R | A | N | G | E | R | S |
| W | H | K | A | W | Y | N | M | X |
| A | J | S | I | G | N | S | L | E |
| L | R | E | V | E | R | S | E | Y |
| K | R | C | U | T | S | W | S | E |
| S | X | X | S | T | R | E | E | T |
| L | M | I | D | D | L | E | T | V |
| Y | X | W | A | B | C | L | Y | C |

### 10 Safety Rules for Walking

Read these 10 safety rules and find the underlined words in the word search.

1. Look both ways before crossing the street
2. Always use crosswalks and side walks
3. Never talk to strangers
4. Walk with a friend or group - it is safer than walking alone
5. Obey signals, such as traffic lights and stop signs
6. Never cross the street in the middle of the block
7. Make eye contact with drivers to ensure they see you before crossing
8. Never run in front of parked cars
9. Be cautious of cars that are in reverse
10. When you're not crossing the street, walk facing traffic

### Spot the Differences

Can you spot 7 differences between the two pictures?

**key**  
1. Walking partner 2. Crosswalk lines 3. Crossing guard  
4. Safety vest 5. Stop sign 6. Car headlights 7. Crosswalk sign

